of dues would adversely affect the supply of coal to the Power Station; and

(c) if so, what are the details in this regard and how Government propose to meet the istuation?

THE MINISTER OF POWER, MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c) The entire energy output from Badarpur Thermal Power Station (BTPS) is supplied to Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB). The operation and maintenance expenses of BTPS are met out of realisation of energy bills from DVB. DVB has been a chronic defaulter in the payment of energy bills. Coal is supplied to BTPS by the Coal Companies and Railways under cash and carry scheme.

The total realisation against BTPS's energy bill from DVB during 1998-99 (upto February, 1999) including diversion of funds from Central Plan Assistance of Government of Delhi, has been only 56% of the billed amount. As a result, BTPS was not able to meet the payment commitments in full to Coal Companies and Railways. Hence the coal supplies were affected from December, 1998 onwards. However, BTPS maintained full generation by using the coal out of their stock to meet the winter demand of Delhi. As a result, the station's coal stock depleted to a critically low level.

Government of India has been taking up the issue regarding non-payment of dues by DVB with the Government of NCT of Delhi as well as DVB from time to time. This issue has also been discussed at the highest level in the past. Recently, the matter was discussed by me in a meeting with the Power Minister of Delhi and officials of Government of Delhi and DVB when the gravity of the situation arising out of the non-payment of energy bills to BTPS by DVB was explained to them. Government of Delhi/DVB have agreed for opening of a Letter of Credit for full amount of energy bills in favour of BTPS in April, 1999, as well as for furnishing a schedule for liquidation of the reconciled outstandings of BTPS payable by DVB. In pursuance of the decision taken in the meeting, Government of Delhi/DVB has released Rs. 50 crores against outstanding in February, 1999. BTPS, in turn, have now paid to the Coal Companies and Railways, for the current coal supplies.

Export of garments

*207. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) the total garment exports from India during last five years;

(b) whether garment exports during 1997-98, till date, have come down;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government for promotion of garment exports?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) The total garment exports from India during the last five years were as follows:

Year	Value in Million US dollars
1993-94	3,713.65
1994-95	4,433.83
1995-96	4,453.31
1996-97	4,762.10
1997-98	4,910.70

(b) and (c) The garment exports during April, 1998-February, 1999 have shown an increase of 7.1% over the performance during the corresponding period of 1997-98.

(d) In order to encourage the export of garments, Government have been taking a number of steps, which include encouraging exporters to participate in buyer-seller meets, fairs and exhibitions, enabling import of capital goods at concessional duty for export production; special arrangments for duty free import of raw materials for export production, Human Resources Development in the garment sector, etc. Apart from the above, a Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) has been launched for the textile and jute industries, including the garment sector, to encourage modernisation and technological upgradation so as to enhance their productivity and competitiveness. An Expert Committee for giving recommendations for a new Textile Policy has also been set up.